



Park Trails

Crater Lake National Park contains more than 90 miles of hiking trails. Many may be hiked in a single day. The steep terrain and elevation of Crater Lake mean that the time, length, and difficulty of trails are not directly related.

Difficulty listings are broken into four categories: easy, moderate, difficult and strenuous. Trails listed as strenuous should be taken only by people in good physical condition. Most of these hikes are over a mile high in elevation, so go slow and be prepared.

Things to Know

Crater Lake National Park is a special place. To help preserve park resources and to protect yourself, please observe the following rules:
Hiking or climbing inside the caldera is prohibited. Cliffs and rockslides make the caldera extremely dangerous. The Cleetwood Trail is the only safe and legal access to the lake.
Dogs and other pets are only allowed in developed areas; not on park trails or in the backcountry.
Bicycles are only allowed on the paved roads and the unpaved Grayback Road.
Stay on trails to protect vegetation and fragile

hillsides. Shortcutting trails, particularly on switchbacks, can damage slopes and make them more susceptible to erosion.
Be prepared! Equip yourself with water, food, warm clothing, and anything else appropriate. Do not drink water from park streams or from the lake without properly treating it.
Leave all rocks, plants and artifacts undisturbed for the enjoyment of future hikers. Gathering of downed wood for campfires is allowed only below 6,900 feet.

Short Hikes (15 to 45 minutes)

Sun Notch Viewpoint

Time: 20 minutes
Length: 0.25 miles one way
Elevation: 7,000 to 7,115 feet
Difficulty: Moderate
Trailhead: 4 miles east of Park Headquarters on the East Rim Drive
Features: View of Crater Lake and Phantom Ship. Use caution near the cliff edges.

Godfrey Glen

Time: 30 minutes
Length: 1 mile loop
Elevation: 6,000 to 6,050 feet
Difficulty: Easy
Trailhead: 2.4 miles south of Park Headquarters on Munson Valley Road.
Features: Old growth forests, and views of Annie Creek Canyon. Fully accessible.

Castle Crest Wildflower Trail

Time: 30 to 45 minutes
Length: 0.4 mile loop from East Rim Drive, 1 mile loop from Park Headquarters
Elevation: 6,400 to 6,500 feet
Difficulty: Moderate
Trailhead: 0.5 miles east of Park Headquarters on East Rim Drive, or across the road from Park Headquarters
Features: Creek and meadow wildflowers in summer months.

Lady of the Woods Trail

Time: 30 minutes
Length: 0.3 mile loop
Elevation: 6,400 to 6,500 feet
Difficulty: Moderate
Trailhead: Behind Steel Information Center
Features: View historic buildings, landscape and sculpture. Trailside brochure available by Munson Creek bridge.

Pinnacles Trail

Time: 30 minutes
Length: 1 mile out and back
Elevation: 5,500 to 5,400 feet
Difficulty: Easy
Trailhead: End of Pinnacles Spur Road, 7 miles south of Phantom Ship Overlook
Features: Views of volcanic spires in canyon walls. Use caution near cliffs.

**Medium Hikes
(1 to 2 hours)**

Watchman Peak

Time: 1 hour
Length: 0.8 mile one way
Elevation: 7,400 to 8,056 feet
Trailhead: Watchman Overlook, 3.7 miles north of Rim Village on West Rim Drive
Difficulty: Moderate
Features: Panoramic view from a historic fire lookout. May be closed until July due to snow.

Plaikni Falls

Time: 1 hour
Length: 1.1 miles each way
Elevation: 6,420 to 6,520 feet
Trailhead: Pinnacles Rd, 1 mile south of Phantom Ship Overlook.
Difficulty: Easy
Features: 20 foot waterfall. Klamath name meaning “from the high country”.

Cleetwood Cove (*only lake shore access*)

Time: 1.5 hours
Length: 1.1 miles one way

Elevation: 6,850 to 6,176 feet
Difficulty: Strenuous, 11% grade
Trailhead: 4.5 miles east of junction of East Rim Road and North Entrance Road
Features: Lake shore and boat dock.

Discovery Point

Time: 1 hour
Length: 1.1 miles one way
Elevation: 7,050 to 7,150 feet
Difficulty: Easy
Trailhead: Rim Village, follow the sidewalk west out of Rim Village to start of dirt trail.
Features: Views of Crater Lake.

Annie Creek Canyon

Time: 1.5 hours
Length: 1.7 mile loop
Elevation: 5,800 to 6,000 feet
Difficulty: Moderate
Trailhead: Mazama Campground
Amphitheater
Features: Deep, stream-cut canyon and creek-side wildflowers.

**Longer Hikes
(2 hours or more)**

Garfield Peak

Time: 2 to 3 hours
Length: 1.7 miles one way
Elevation: 7,050 to 8,060 feet
Difficulty: Difficult
Trailhead: Follow sidewalk on lakeside of Crater Lake Lodge going east to start of dirt trail
Features: Panoramic views. May be closed until mid-July due to snow.

Boundary Springs

Time: 3 hours
Length: 2.5 miles one way
Elevation: 5,240 to 5,255 feet (400' +/-)
Difficulty: Moderate
Trailhead: Highway 230, 5 miles west of Hwy 138 junction.
Features: Forest hike to Rogue River headwaters.

Mt. Scott

Time: 3 hours
Length: 2.5 miles one way
Elevation: 7,450 to 8,929 feet
Difficulty: Strenuous
Trailhead: 14 miles east of Park Headquarters on East Rim Drive
Features: Highest point in the park with views of a historic fire lookout and Crater Lake.

Crater Peak

Time: 3.5 hours
Length: 3.2 miles one way
Elevation: 6,500 to 7,265 feet
Difficulty: Moderate to Strenuous
Trailhead: East Rim Drive, 3 miles east of Park Headquarters in Vidae Falls Picnic Area.
Features: Forest and views of Klamath Lake (no Crater Lake views).

**Backpacking Options
(Permit required for
overnight stays)**

Dutton Creek

Length: 2.4 miles one way
Elevation: 7,057 to 6,080 feet
Difficulty: Difficult
Trailhead: south of West Rim Drive intersection by Rim Village
Features: Through forest and meadows to backcountry campsites on Pacific Crest Trail.

Lightning Springs

Length: 4 miles one way
Elevation: 7,150 to 5,840 feet
Difficulty: Difficult
Trailhead: West Rim Drive, 2.3 miles west of Rim Village
Features: Forest and meadow views with

access to backcountry campsites and Pacific Crest Trail.

Pacific Crest Trail

Length: 34.2 miles
Difficulty: Difficult
Trailheads: Hwy 138 just north of park boundary, 6 miles south of Hwy 138 on North Entrance Rd, and Hwy 62 a ½ mile west of Mazama Village
Features: Forest trail with no Crater Lake views. Alternate trail available along west rim of Crater Lake (no stock allowed).